



WORK SAMPLES IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Collect a variety of work samples during everyday activities:

- Choose examples, or take photographs, of children's work, activities, or interactions that demonstrate their important learning goals.
- Label the work samples to make them more useful (with quotes from the children about their work, etc.).
- Collect work samples from the classroom and from home.
- Collect samples of the same skill, over time, to document progress.

Follow these steps:

- Choose specific skills or learning goals to document.
- Plan how often to collect work samples.
- Keep it simple—use labels you have pre-printed with each child's name, so you can identify and organize the work samples. Include the date, children's name(s), activity (if needed), and any help the child received.
- Keep a camera handy to photograph children's work, activities, and interactions.



Use work samples to help you understand children's learning:

- Organize the work samples in a portfolio, notebook, or binder.
- Enter the information into your program's curriculum system, or computerized assessment system.
- Analyze the work samples. What do they tell you about how the children are learning?
- Look for changes in the same skill, over time, to determine whether children are making progress.
- Use this information to adjust what and how you teach, and improve children's learning.